ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for constructing and selecting non-recursive variable rate spreading codes is provided. The method includes the step of constructing the spreading code sets with at least one spreading factor (SF) level, wherein each SF level corresponds to a spreading factor $2^j SF_{min}$, for $j=0...z$, where z is a predetermined integer. The next step assigns to each of the SF levels in each of the spreading code sets C_1, $C_2...C_n$, a matrix node corresponding to N_2^j for $j=0...z$, where the z has been predetermined. The final step selects for a predetermined duration one of the plurality of spreading code sets C_1, $C_2...C_n$.